

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Powell, R., R.I. Crombie, and H.E.A. Boos. 1998. *Hemidactylus mabouia*.

Hemidactylus mabouia (Moreau de Jonnès)

Gekko tuberculosus Daudin 1802:158. Type locality and holotype not designated. See Remarks.

Gekko Mabouia Moreau de Jonnès 1818a:138. Type locality, "Amerique, les contrées continentales qui avoisinent au midi l'Archipel des Antilles, ... îles du même archipel depuis la Trinité jusqu'à la Jamaïque," (restricted to "Antilles" by Duméril and Duméril 1851; and to "St. Vincent, Lesser Antilles" by Stejneger 1904; also see Smith and Taylor 1950, 1966). Holotype, Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN) 6573, adult male, date of collection and collector unknown (not examined by authors). See Remarks.

Gekko incanescens Wied-Neuwied 1824:662. Type locality, "Brazil" (restricted to "Rio de Janeiro, Cabo Frio, Campos des Goaytacases and Espirito Santo, Brasil" by Wied-Neuwied 1825). Synonymized *fide* Duméril and Bibron (1836). Holotype not located.

Gekko armatus Wied-Neuwied 1824:662. Type locality, "Brasil." Holotype not located. Synonymized *fide* Duméril and Bibron (1836).

Gekko aculeatus Spix 1825:16. Type locality, "Rio de Janeiro, [Brasil]." Syntypes, Zoologische Staatssammlung München ZSMH 166/0 A, B, adult males, date(s) of collection unknown, collected by J.B. von Spix. ZSMH 166/0 A and B were designated as lectotype and paralectotype, respectively by Hoogmoed and Gruber (1983). Synonymized *fide* Cuvier (1829) (not examined by authors).

Gekko cruciger Spix 1825:16. Type locality, "Provincia [= state of] Bahiae [= Bahia, Brasil]." See Remarks.

Lophyrus cruciger Spix 1825:pl. XIII, fig. 3. Type locality, "Province of Bahia (= State), Brasil." See Remarks.

Gekko armatus: Boie 1826:119 (part).

Hemidactylus armatus: Fitzinger 1827:746 (by inference).

Gekko mabuia: Cuvier 1829:54.

Hemidactylus Mabouia: Duméril and Bibron 1836:362 (part). First use of combination.

Hemidactylus (Tachybates) mabuya: Fitzinger 1843:105.

Hemidactylus mabuia: Girard 1858:283. *Lapsus*.

Hemidactylus tuberculosus: Peters 1877:411 (part), 414 (part).

Hemidactylus frenatus var. *calabaricus* Boettger 1878:1. Type locality, "Alt-Calabar, an der Guineaküste in West-Afrika" (= Nigeria). Synonymized *fide* Mertens (1922) (although see Remarks), who listed SMF 4122F as the types (Boettger 1878 noted "zwei Pärchen" [= two pairs], but stated (1893) that the types consisted of two specimens (not examined by authors).

Hemidactylus frenatus: Rochebrune 1884:76 (not of Duméril and Bibron 1836). Synonymized *fide* Loveridge (1947).

Hemidactylus benguellensis Bocage 1893:115. Type locality, "Cahata, Benguela, Angola." Holotype not located (probably in the collection in Lisbon that was destroyed by fire in 1975). Synonymized *fide* Loveridge (1947).

Hemidactylus mabonia: Peel 1900:334. *Lapsus*.

Hemidactylus brookii Meek 1910:406 (not of Gray 1842).

Hemidactylus persimilis Loveridge 1933:284 (part).

Hemidactylus mabouia: Carini 1936:444.

Hemidactylus mobouia: Self and García-Díaz 1961:912. *Lapsus*.

Hemidactylus mabouia: Santos 1981:111. *Lapsus*.

Hemidactylus mabouia: Simó et al. 1986:R. 755. *Lapsus*.

• **CONTENT.** No subspecies are recognized (Kluge 1991).

• **DEFINITION.** New World specimens are medium-sized geckos, SVL to 67.9 mm (Kluge 1969), with dorsal surfaces covered by minute granules and small trihedral tubercles, a hemidactyl type of digit whose enlarged subdigital lamellae fail to reach the origins of the digits, 14–22 (\bar{x} = 17.8) loreal scales,



FIGURE 1. Adult *Hemidactylus mabouia* from an introduced colony in Fort Myers, Lee Co., Florida (KU 222285). Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins (courtesy of The Center for North American Amphibians and Reptiles).

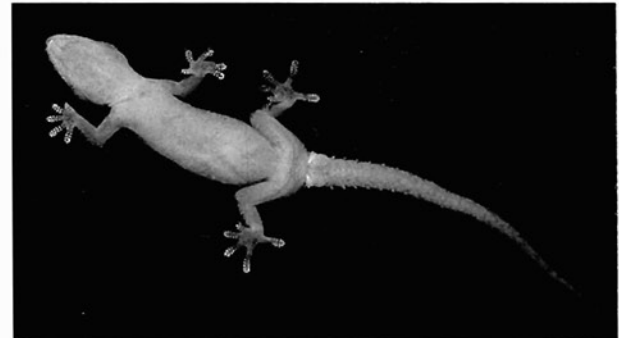


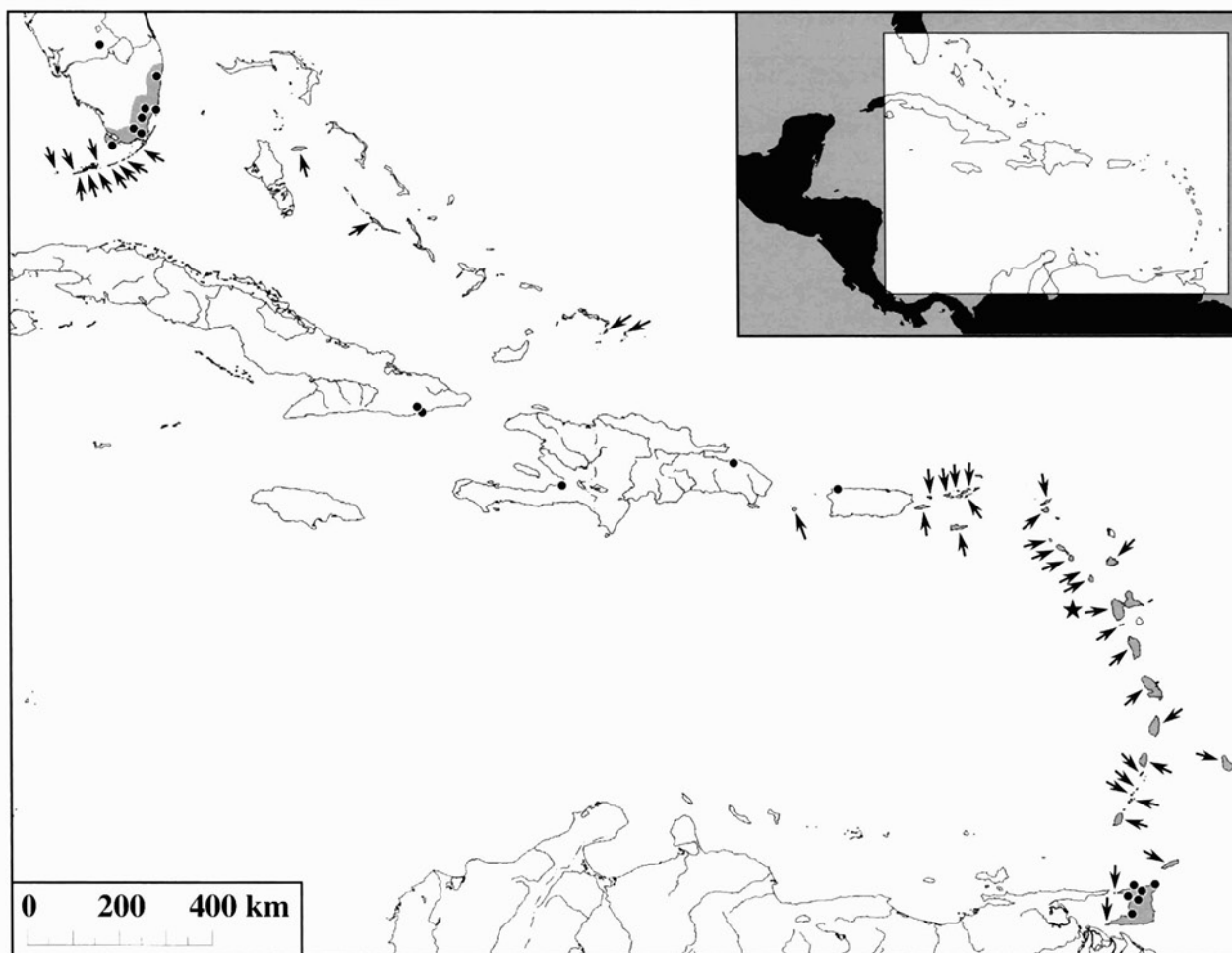
FIGURE 2. Ventral view of an adult male *Hemidactylus mabouia* from Belém, Pará, Brasil (BWMC 04151); note that the enlarged subdigital lamellae fail to reach the origins of the fourth and fifth toes. Photograph by Darla K. Carr.

0–4 (\bar{x} = 0.4) cheek tubercles, no auricular scales, 8–13 (\bar{x} = 10.7) supralabials, 7–10 (\bar{x} = 8.9) infralabials, 10–17 (\bar{x} = 13.9) rows of body tubercles, 13–20 (\bar{x} = 15.8) tubercles in paravertebral rows, 3 tubercles in each caudal whorl, 4–10 (\bar{x} = 7.5) scales between whorls, 8–17 (\bar{x} = 13.9) subdigital lamellae on the 4th toe, 27–38 (\bar{x} = 32.9) preanal pores, 0–1 (\bar{x} = 0.10) interpreanal scales, snout-eye length 9.90–12.73% (\bar{x} = 10.98%) and eye-ear length 7.89–10.48% (\bar{x} = 8.81%) of SVL.

Ground color is grayish-white to light brown. The dorsal pattern, when present, is slightly darker or lighter and consists of 3–6 V-shaped bands, the apices of which are directed posteriorly; bands vary in width and the posterior margin is usually darkest. The dorsal surface of the tail is covered with 10–13 often faint dark bands.

• **DIAGNOSIS.** *Hemidactylus mabouia* differs from all other New World congeners in the following combination of characters: a hemidactyl type of digit with the enlarged subdigital lamellae of the 4th toe not reaching the origin of the digit; dorsal surfaces of the body covered with minute granules and small trihedral tubercles; preanal pores 27–38 (\bar{x} = 32.9); interpreanal pore scales 0–1 (\bar{x} = 0.10); no auricular scales.

• **DESCRIPTIONS.** In addition to the descriptions cited in the synonymy and various regional guides noted under Distribution, Moreau de Jonnès (1818b, 1821) provided a German translation and an expanded version of the original description, respectively. Grant (1931) described color in *H. mabouia* from Puerto Rico, Grant (1932a) described a series of specimens from Vieques and St. Thomas islands, Cochran (1941) a specimen from Haiti, and Hoogmoed (1973) a small series from Surinam. Araújo (1994) provided morphometric data on Brazilian specimens. Vanzolini (1964, 1968, 1978), Kluge (1969), Vanzolini et al. (1980), Schwartz and Henderson (1991), and Avila-Pires (1995) provided very detailed descriptions.



Map 1. Distribution of *Hemidactylus mabouia* in Florida (from a map prepared by W.E. Meshaka, Jr.), the West Indies (modified from Schwartz and Henderson 1991), and Trinidad and Tobago (modified from Murphy 1997). The type-locality is not plotted (see Remarks). Dots and arrows mark known records; some dots and arrows denote two or more geographically proximate localities. The star indicates late Quaternary fossils on Guadeloupe (see Fossil Record). The confirmed Mexican locality (Veracruz) is not plotted (see Distribution).

• **ILLUSTRATIONS.** The first illustration of what is probably *Hemidactylus mabouia* was provided by Du Tertre (1654; see discussion in Kluge 1969). Color photographs are in Rivero (1978), Grobman (1983), Avila-Pires (1995), Vitt (1996), and Murphy (1997). Black and white photographs are in Grant (1932a), Lema (1962), Müller (1968, 1969), Boos and Quesnel (1969), Kluge (1969), Hoogmoed (1973), Boos (1977), Vanzolini (1978), and Santos (1981). A color drawing of very poor quality is in Santos (1981). Line drawings are in Stejneger (1904, Cuban specimen), Parker (1933, underside of foot), Wellborn (1933, skull and pectoral girdle), Cochran (1941, Haitian specimen), Underwood (1954a, 1962, fourth toe), Baird (1960, periotic labyrinth), Rosa (1966, dicephalic specimen), Kluge (1969, cheek and ventral view of hind foot), Grzimek (1971, underside of foot), Rivero (1978, side of head), Bacon (1978, Lesser Antillean specimen), Vanzolini et al. (1980, dorsal view of adult and underside of foot), Santos (1981, preserved Brazilian specimen), McLean (1982, adult from the Virgin Islands), Avila-Pires (1995, dorsal and ventral views of head, dorsal tubercles at mid-body, and underside of left foot), Murphy (1997, underside of toe), and Powell et al. (1998, underside of foot). Beçak et al. (1972) illustrated the karyotype ($2n = 42$) and Meyer et al. (1979) postures assumed in response to various substrates.

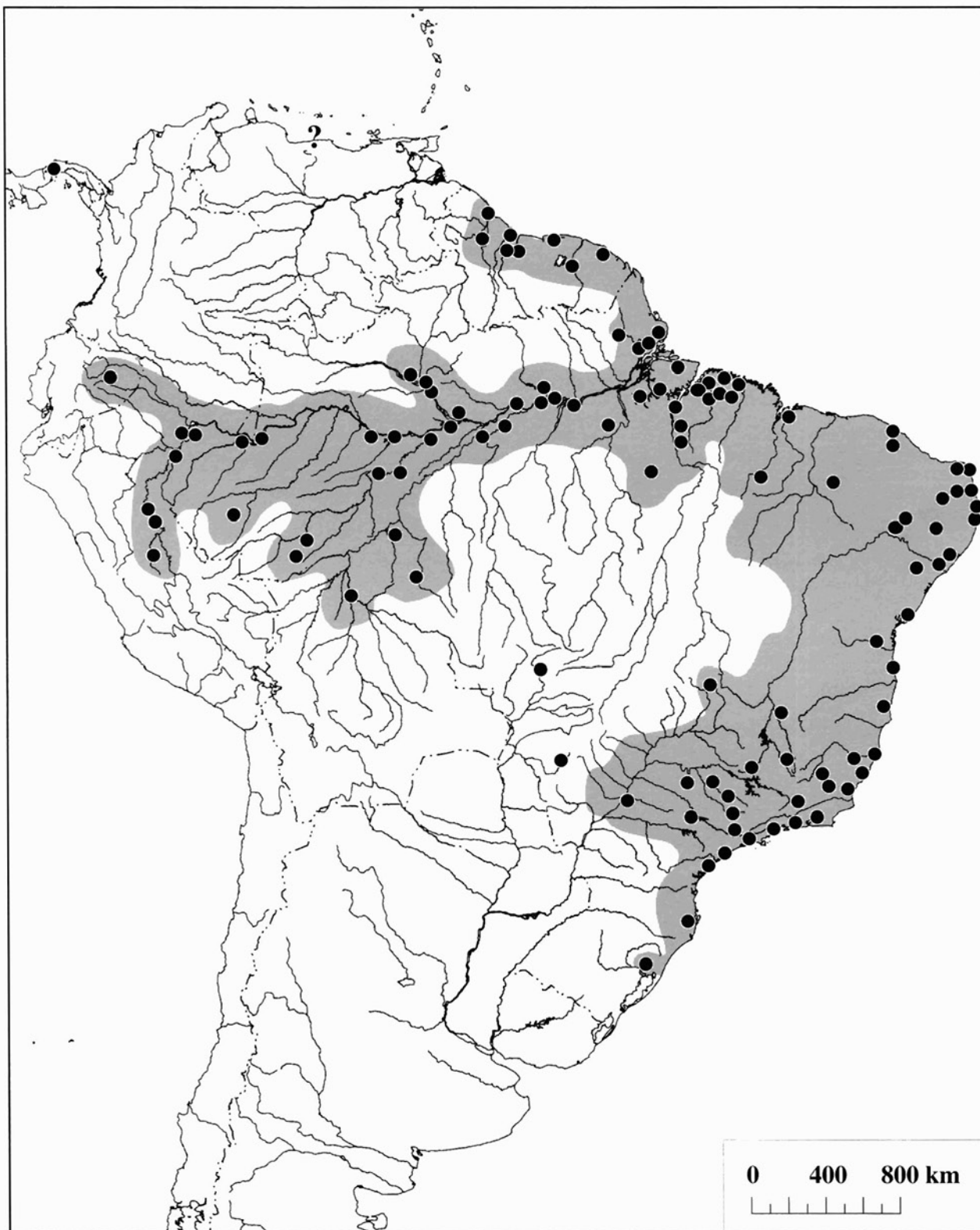
• **DISTRIBUTION.** *Hemidactylus mabouia* is found in Africa south of 10°N latitude (although absent from most of southwestern Africa), Ascension Island, and on Madagascar and islands in the Mozambique Channel (although see Remarks). In

the Western Hemisphere, the species is found along the eastern coast of South America from Montevideo, Uruguay, through Brazil, French Guiana, and Suriname to Georgetown, Guyana and along most of the length of the Amazon River in Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, and Perú; Trinidad and Tobago and several satellite islands, including Carrera, Chacachacare, Nelson, and Patos; and in the Antilles. The species ranges widely throughout the Lesser Antilles, whereas Greater Antillean records are isolated occurrences. Specimens are known from the Caicos Islands (South Caicos Island), Turks Islands (Grand Turk Island), Cuba (Guantánamo), Haiti (Port-au-Prince), República Dominicana (Miches), Puerto Rico (including islas Mona and Cueva), Isla Vieques (including Cayo de Tierra), Virgin Islands (St. Thomas including Fish Cay, Hassel Island, St. John including Lovango Cay and Henley Cay and Sandy Cay, Jost Van Dyke, Guana Island, Tortola Island including Sandy Cay, Bellamy Cay, Frenchman's Cay, Beef Island, Marina Cay, Peter Island, Salt Island, Cooper Island, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and St. Croix), Anguilla, St.-Martin, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Christopher, Montserrat, Redonda, Nevis, Antigua (including Great Bird Island), Guadeloupe and its satellites Ile Pigeon du Nord, Tête à l'Anglais, Iles de la Petite Terre (Terre de Bas) and Iles des Saintes (Ile à Cabrit, Terre-de-bas, Terre-de-haut), Dominica, Martinique, St. Lucia (but not on the adjacent Maria Island), Barbados, St. Vincent, the Grenadines (Bequia Island, Petite Martinique Island, Mayreau Island, Carriacou Island), and Grenada. The species has also been recorded from the Gulf Coast of México (Flores-Villela 1993), Panamá (Auth 1994),

Florida (Barbour 1936, Butterfield et al. 1993, Meshaka et al. 1994a,d), the Florida Keys (Lawson et al. 1991, Günther et al. 1993, Meshaka et al. 1994c), and from the Exuma Islands (Franz et al. 1993) and New Providence Island (Buckner and Franz 1994), Bahamas.

Vanzolini (1964, 1968a, 1978) discussed South American records and illustrated the range, but did not distinguish *mabouia*

from *H. palaichthus* in the two earlier papers. Vanzolini (1986b) redefined the distribution after the description of *H. palaichthus*. Hoogmoed (1973) illustrated the range in Surinam, and Avila-Pires (1995) that in Amazonian Brazil. Other notes of South American records are in Guichenot (1855), Steindachner (1867), Cope (1868 [1869]), Boulenger (1888), Goeldi (1896, 1902), Ihering (1898), Penard and Penard (1906), Griffin (1917), Beebe



Map 2. Distribution of *Hemidactylus mabouia* in Central and South America (modified from Kluge 1969, Vanzolini 1978, and Avila-Pires 1995). Dots indicate known records; the question mark denotes an uncertain locality. Some dots denote two or more geographically proximate localities.

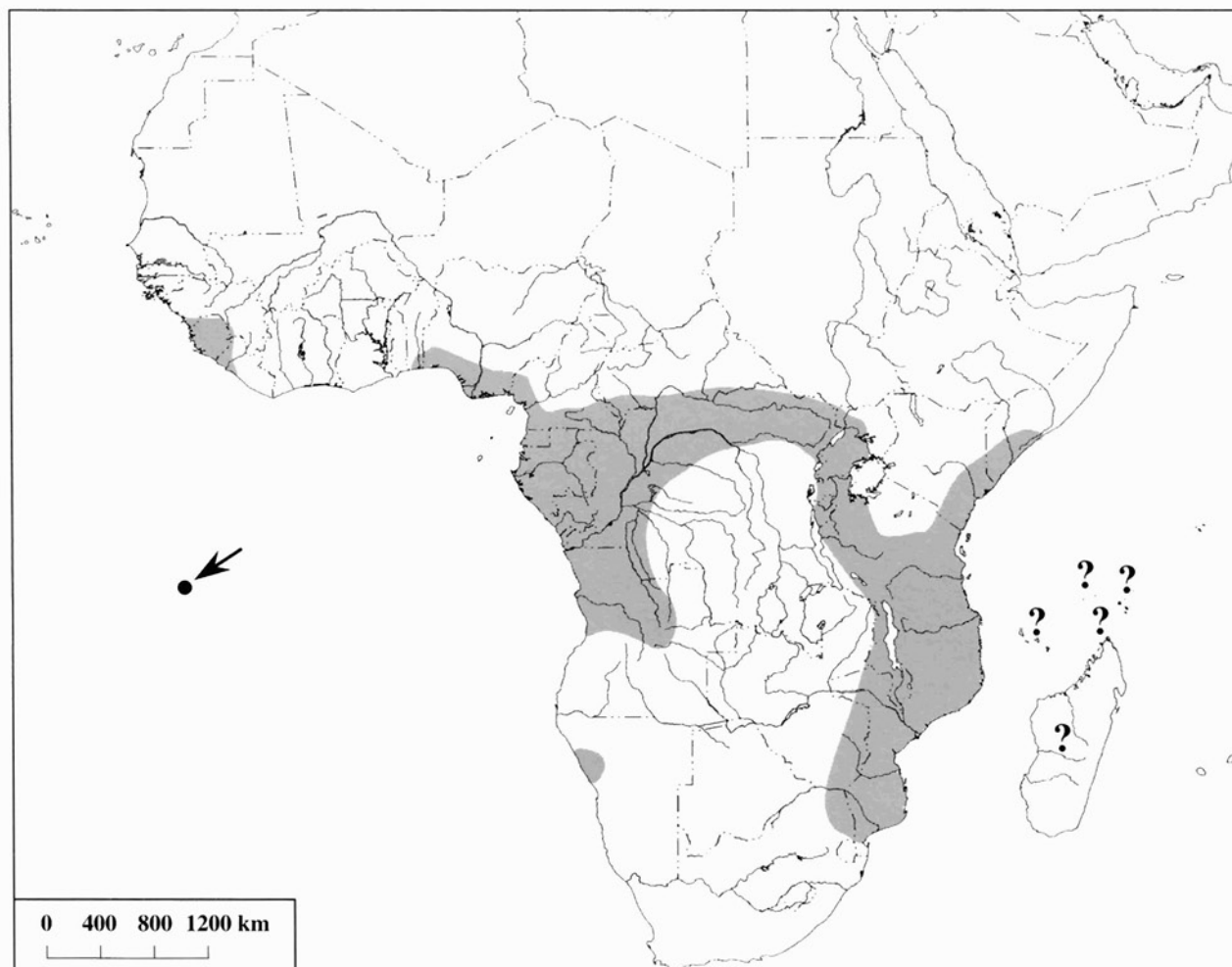
(1919, 1944), Proctor (1923), Cott (1926), Müller (1928), Burt and Burt (1931, 1933), Crawford (1931), Amaral (1937, 1937 [1938], 1949), Burt and Myers (1942), Vanzolini (1948, 1981, 1986a), Röhl (1949), Hoge (1950), Schmidt and Inger (1951), Johnson (1952), Mertens (1955a, 1955b), Cunha (1961), Lancini V. (1963), Donoso-Barros (1968), Mechler (1968), Müller (1968, 1969), Hoogmoed (1974, 1979), Hoogmoed and Lescure (1975), Dixon and Soini (1975, 1986), Lema (1978), Gasc and Lescure (1981), Miyata (1982), Ayala (1986), Fugler (1988), Simó et al. (1988), Nascimento et al. (1988, 1991), Gasc (1990), Pefaur (1992), Araújo (1994), Duellman and Mendelson (1995), Silva and Sites (1995), Lamar (1997), and Vitt and Zani (1997); again, many of the earlier records may include references to geckos now known to be *H. palaichthus*.

Populations on Trinidad and Tobago were discussed by de Verteuil (1858, 1884), Mole and Urich (1894), Parker (1933), Beebe (1952), de Verteuil (1968), Boos and Quesnel (1969, 1994), Mertens (1969, 1972 [1973]), Boos (1977, 1984a,b,c, 1987, 1990), Moonen (1977), Hardy (1982), Krintler (1982), and Murphy (1996, 1997). Dinsmore's (1970) description of geckos from Little Tobago Island was actually of *H. palaichthus*.

The West Indian distribution has been noted in checklists, guides, and notes by Reinhardt and Lütken (1863), Boulenger (1890, 1891), Meerwarth (1901), Barbour (1914, 1930, 1935, 1937), Stejneger (1917), Grant (1932a,c,d,e, 1937, 1940, 1959), Cochran (1924, 1934, 1938, 1941), Underwood (1962), Heatwole et al. (1965), García-Díaz (1967), Groome (1970), Long (1974), Schwartz and Thomas (1975), Philbosian and Yntema (1976, 1977, 1978), MacLean et al. (1977), Rivero (1978), Schwartz et al. (1978), Currat (1980), Schwartz (1980), MacLean (1982), Welch (1982), Henderson and Schwartz

(1984), Henderson et al. (1984), Schwartz and Henderson (1985, 1988, 1991), Corke (1987), Mayer and Lazell (1988), Hedges and Thomas (1989), Bullock and Evans (1990), Powell et al. (1996, 1998), and Censky and Kaiser (1998). SEA/DVS (1990) provided an index of habitat in the Dominican Republic. Records of *H. mabouia* on Puerto Rico in Cope (1868 [1869]), Gundlach (1881), Garman (1887), Boettger (1893), Stejneger (1904), Schmidt (1928), and Barbour (1930) were considered erroneous by Grant (1932a), although the species has subsequently been found on the island. Grant (1940) noted the frequent listing of the species as occurring in Jamaica, but did not consider it a member of the island's fauna.

The presence of *Hemidactylus mabouia* along the Gulf Coast of México has been noted in checklists, guides, and notes by Smith and Taylor (1950, 1966), Ramírez-Bautista (1977), Ramírez-Bautista et al. (1981), Flores-Villela et al. (1987, 1995), Pérez-Higadara [sic] et al. (1987), Pelacastre-Villafuerte and Flores-Villela (1992), Flores-Villela (1993), and Liner (1994). McCoy (1970) had suggested that specimens from Veracruz, México (Boulenger 1885) were *H. turcicus*, but McAllister and Upton (1989) found notoriously host-specific coccidia in a gecko from Veracruz. That parasite had been described previously in *H. mabouia* from Brazil (Carini and Pinto 1926). Recently (May 1998), the senior author found *H. mabouia* in the city of Veracruz. To the north, in Tuxpan, *H. turcicus* was abundant. However, geckos in the Los Tuxtlas region, where *H. mabouia* has been reported, were *H. frenatus*. That these geckos were much more common in 1998 than in 1996 suggests a recent introduction and raises the question whether they have displaced or are displacing *H. mabouia*. In any case, the extent of the range of *H. mabouia* in México must still be resolved.



Map 3. Distribution of *Hemidactylus mabouia* in Africa (modified from Kluge 1969). Question marks indicate uncertainty regarding records from Madagascar and Indian Ocean islands (see Remarks).

McCoy (1970) indicated that reports from Key West, Florida (Fowler 1915) and Matanzas, Cuba (Stejneger 1917, Barbour and Ramsden 1919) actually represented *H. turcicus*. Smith and Kohler (1977 [1978]) listed the species as an expected exotic. However, *H. mabouia* has subsequently been confirmed in the Florida Keys (Lawson et al. 1991; Watkins-Colwell and Watkins-Colwell 1995), where it appears to be displacing the formerly more common *H. turcicus* (Meshaka et al. 1994a,c).

Ranges in the eastern and western hemispheres are illustrated in Kluge (1969), Müller (1969), and Grzimek (1971), although the latter mistakenly included nearly all of México. The West Indian range was figured in part by Schwartz and Henderson (1991) that of Brazilian Amazonia in Avila-Pires (1995), and that on Trinidad and Tobago by Murphy (1997).

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** Late Quaternary fossils of *Hemidactylus* cf. *mabouia* have been found on Guadeloupe (Pregill et al. 1994).

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** The first descriptions and illustration of what was probably *Hemidactylus mabouia* in the Western Hemisphere were by Du Tertre (1654, 1667). Rochefort (1658) and Hughes (1750) described similar lizards, but the former may have plagiarized Du Tertre (Grant 1932e). Hartsinck (1770) described geckos, most likely *H. mabouia*, from South America. Moreau de Jonnés (1821) presented vernacular names and information on natural history. Loveridge (1941) provided a key and summarized taxonomy and ranges of American forms. Grant and Deuel (1944) compared American *Hemidactylus*. Schmidt and Inger (1957), Mertens (1960), Vanzolini (1968b), Müller (1969), Boos (1977), and Vitt (1996) suggested a human-aided mode of dispersal from Africa. Grzimek (1971) and Laurent (1979) also noted an African origin of *H. mabouia*. Levins and Heatwole (1963) considered the allopatric distribution of *mabouia* and *H. brookii* examples of competitive exclusion. Kluge (1969) disputed their arguments and discussed the origin of New World *mabouia* and probable mode of dispersal, distribution, and relationships among all *Hemidactylus* in the Western Hemisphere. Hedges (1996) discussed the two possibilities for the origin of the New World populations. Vanzolini (1964, 1968a, 1978) thoroughly covered distribution and relationships of South American populations. Avila-Pires (1995) described Amazonian specimens, discussed habitat and distribution, summarized the literature pertaining to dispersal, and provided vernacular names used in Brazil. Vanzolini et al. (1980) distinguished *mabouia* from *H. agrius* and provided a general discussion of characteristics. Wermuth (1965) provided a synonymy, and Guibé (1954) and Brygoo (1990) listed pertinent types in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle.

Other topics addressed in the literature include: **reproduction** (Fitch 1970; Pendlebury 1972; Dixon and Soini 1975, 1986; Vitt 1986, 1992; Meshaka et al. 1994b; Bock 1996), **sexual size differences** (Fitch 1981), **ecology and natural history** (Grant 1932a,b; Hoge 1950; Johnson 1952; Lando and Williams 1969; Crump 1971; Araújo 1991, 1994; Schwartz and Henderson 1991; Powell and Henderson 1992; Vitt 1995, 1996a, b; Rodrigues 1996; Vitt and Zani 1997); **predation by *Alsophis portoricensis*** (Grant 1932d, Henderson and Sajdak 1996); **predation by *Tropidurus torquatus*** (Araújo 1991); **cannibalism** (Zamprognio and Teixeira 1998), **tail autotomy** (Vitt 1983, Bauer and Russell 1994 [1995]), **human mediated dispersal** (Simó et al. 1988), **vocalization** (Grant 1932b), **postures** (Meyer et al. 1979), **karyotype** (Beçak et al. 1972, 1975; Peccinini-Seale 1981, McBee et al. 1987), **comparison with eublepharids** (Grismer 1988), **confusion with *Thecadactylus pollicaris* and *Phyllopezus goyazensis*** (Müller and Brongersma 1933), **comparison of DNA content with other "lacertilians"** (Soma et al. 1975), **nuclear volume and DNA content of tissues** (Lavalley et al. 1973), **fungal diseases** (Nolard-Tintigner and Pelseneer 1975, Porto and Milanez 1979), **occurrence of *Salmonella*** (Moreno et al. 1973, Murphy and Myers 1993), **parasites** (Carini and Pinto 1926; Carini 1936; Self and García-Díaz 1961; Oliveira Rodrigues 1970, 1986; Oliveira Rodrigues and Santos 1974; Coy Otero 1976; Baker 1987; McAllister and Upton 1989), **double tail** (de Lema 1962), **evaporative water loss** (Heatwole and Veron 1977), **osteology** (Wellborn 1933), **cranial morphol-**

ogy (Fabián-Beurmann et al. 1980), **cranial musculature** (Abdala and Moro 1996), **eye** (Walls 1942), **inner ear morphology** (Baird 1960, Hamilton 1960), **meatal closure muscle and hearing sensitivity** (Wever 1978), **hyoid** (Furbringer 1922), **hepatic metabolism** (Gillet and Maia 1984), **paraphalangeal elements** (Russell and Bauer 1988), **blood lipids** (Gillett et al. 1979, 1980), **longevity** (Snider and Bowler 1992), **as an environmental indicator** (Schmidt 1983, 1984, 1986), **egg structure** (Grive and Kitching 1987), **captive husbandry and propagation** (Klingelhöffer 1957, Benzien 1965, Nietzke 1978, Frovlov 1981, Henkel and Schmidt 1991).

Bauer and Henle (1994) listed the currently recognized species of *Hemidactylus*. Censky and Kaiser (1998) provided a historical review of the Lesser Antillean populations. The species was included in a worldwide study on the classification of geckos by Underwood (1954b), checklists of Peters and Donoso-Barros (1970, 1986), Banks et al. (1987), and Welch (1994), and in the key by Powell et al. (1998).

• **ETYMOLOGY.** Hulme and Whitehead (1992) provided several indications regarding the origin of the specific epithet. They quoted a report usually attributed to J.P. Breton in 1647 noting that "mapoya" are evil spirits and another by Sieur de la Borde in 1673 equating "maboia" with the devil. Du Tertre (1654, 1667) described a "Maboüya" lizard and indicated that "mabouya" was a devil-spirit. Rochefort (1658) indicated that the word "maboya" connoted evil in Carib and was applied to certain lizards of the region. The origin of the term is uncertain; a similar word for devil, "mapuinchi," exists only in the language of the Chontaquiro tribe (Marcoy 1869). These references to evil may be related to the fear of some native groups that geckos will jump on humans and remain attached by their pads or kill with poison (Urich 1894, Mole 1926, Long 1974, Boos 1977, Murphy 1997).

• **REMARKS.** Raddi (1820, 1823) clearly stated that *Gecko tuberculatus* was first proposed by Daudin (1802), which predates *G. Mabouia* by 16 years (see also Brygoo 1990). Although Daudin's description is not very diagnostic, has no type-locality, and could apply to a multitude of geckos, comments by Fitzinger (1827), the synonymy of Loveridge (1947), and subsequent versions of the name used by Raddi (1820, 1823) and Peters (1877) suggest that, unless evidence comes to light that *G. tuberculatus* Daudin has been synonymized with another species (we have found no such evidence, but see below) or that *G. tuberculatus* Raddi is not the same species as that of Daudin, the Daudin name is an available senior synonym for *mabouia*. This could require a petition to suppress the Daudin name as a *nomen oblitum* or, alternately, it could be considered a *nomen dubium*. However, Kluge (1991) used *G. tuberculatus* (lapsed for *tuberculatus*) Daudin 1802 as a senior synonym for *G. monachus* Schlegel, in Duméril and Bibron 1836.

Kluge (1969), in examining the holotype of *Hemidactylus mabouia*, stated that the presence of "*H. brookii*-type" digits, six cheek tubercles, 27 preanal pores, and four interpreanal pore scales suggested an affinity with Colombian populations of *Hemidactylus*. Because *mabouia* has been associated with Lesser Antillean and eastern South American populations for many years, in the interest of nomenclatural stability, Kluge (1969) recommended the name be retained for those populations and the first use of the name, the true identity of the holotype, and its probable geographic origin (Cartagena, Colombia) be ignored. This, however, should be reviewed and ruled upon by the ICZN.

Spix (1825) originally figured *cruciger* as a member of *Lophyrus*, but in his text (apparently prepared after the plates were ready), he associated it with *Gecko*. Hoogmoed and Gruber (1983) were convinced that the identification of *cruciger* as a gekkonid is very unlikely, but Spix did not allude to the discrepancy in names between text and plate. The specimen used for this description was lost at the time Peters (1877) studied the Spix collection and only on the basis of the fact that the back was said to be *tuberculatus* ("verrucoso"), did he assume it was identical to *H. mabouia*. Hoogmoed and Gruber (1983) did "not feel very comfortable about this synonymization and only hesitatingly put it in the synonymy of *H. mabouia*."

Vanzolini (1964) listed *H. hexaspis* Cope, 1868 in the synonymy of *H. mabouia*, but that must have been a *lapsus*, as his synonymy was supposed to be Neotropical and *H. hexaspis* was described from Madagascar and is a synonym of *H. frenatus* (Wermuth 1965).

Loveridge (1947) listed "*Hemidactylus mabouia*: Pechuël-Loesche (1882:276)" as a *lapsus*, but we were unable to find a 1882 edition of Brehm's Tierleben (and Pechuël-Loesche was not involved until later anyway), nor did we find misspellings of *Hemidactylus* in any editions of Brehm's Tierleben. Other books by Pechuël-Loesche were anthropological (he may have mentioned geckos as human commensals), but none were dated 1882.

Boettger (1893) does not list *Hemidactylus frenatus* var. *calabaricus* Boettger 1878, nor does he list any specimens from "Alt-Calabar" except under *H. mabouia*, in effect synonymizing his own taxon, albeit in an oblique fashion.

Considerable confusion among *Hemidactylus mabouia* and other Old World taxa exists in the literature: *H. mercatorius* Gray, 1842 (Boulenger 1885, Loveridge 1933, 1942, 1947, 1953, 1957, Wermuth 1965, Kluge 1969, 1991); *H. platycephalus* Peters 1854 (Broadley 1977); and *H. tasmani* Hewitt 1932 (Welch 1982, who treated *tasmani* as a subspecies of *H. mabouia*; Branch 1988, who stated that "*H. tasmani* may be a full species;" Kluge 1991). In particular the situation on Madagascar and the Indian Ocean islands is problematical. Glaw and Vences (1992) stated: "It seems not really clear which *Hemidactylus* species occur in Madagascar." Broadley (1990, 1992) listed records of *H. mabouia* for islands in the Mozambique Channel, but we do not know if he distinguished *mabouia* from *H. mercatorius*. Considering these factors, caution is certainly warranted when considering the distribution of *H. mabouia* in Africa. Kluge and Nussbaum (1995) included *H. mabouia* in an extensive phylogenetic study using morphological characters, but their emphasis was at the generic level and they did not address these issues.

Burt (1932) suggested that *Hemidactylus leightoni* in Colombia "seems to be but doubtfully distinct from the common *H. mabouia* of neighboring areas." Subsequently, that species has been more closely associated with *H. haitianus*; until Powell et al. (1996), both *H. leightoni* and *H. haitianus* were considered subspecies of *H. brookii*.

Various common names (tropical gecko, house gecko, mabouya, wood slave, twenty-four hours, salamanquesa, osga, lagartixa-de-parede, lagartixa orbriba) are used to designate this species throughout its range in the Western Hemisphere, but often are applied to other geckos as well. Liner (1994) and Frank and Ramus (1995) proposed the name "Cosmopolitan House Gecko" specifically for this species, but Lamar (1997) used "Common House Gecko."

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